and casual connections and also for completing the shifting cases of phone from one area to another.

(ii) Need to reserve switching capacity for maintenance (for change of subscriber ports in case of hardware faults) and for test purposes.

(iii) Department provides electronic exchanges of capacity 56 lines and 88 lines with a registered demand of ten in rural areas. This result in low utilisation of exchange capacity.

(iv) Small and medium size exchanges, the expansion takes place in higher modular capacities which takes a few years to reach fully loading.

(v) Distribution of telephones in urban area and rural area as on 31.3.91 was in the ratio 89.5: 10.5 whereas this ratio as on 31.3.96 is 84:16. The increase in rural coverage is also a major contributory factor in lowering the average utilisation of the exchange capacities.

(vi) At the time of commissioning of a large size exchange, the expected loading of large size exchanges is about 60% and in about six months time it is expected to be optimally loaded subect to the availability of demand. So, with every expansion and commissioning of new system, the utilisation drops to pick up in the later part of the year.

2. Further, the utilisation of Switching Capacities is dependent on:

(i) The growth rate of the network — higher the growth rate lower the utilisation. Growth rate increased from 12.27 (1991-92) to 22.28 (1995-96) and the capacity utilisation decreased from 85.68 to 81-89 in the respective years.

(ii) lower the ratio of wait list to net switching capacity, the lower will be the utilisation because in more number of exchanges telephone will be available on demand. The ratio of waiting list to net switching capacity ratio 0.34 (1991-92) to 0.16 (1995-96) and the capacity utilisation decreased from 84.68 to 81.89 in the respective years.

2. High expansion rate of network in the recent past, namely during the 8th Five Year Plan accompanied by progressive reduction in the waiting list has resulted in lower utilisation.

Budgetary support to Sick Public Sector Undertakings

3040. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has urged the Finance Ministry to provide adequate budgetary support for sick Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any efforts to revive sick PSUs under his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) 5 Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Textiles have been declared sick by the BIFR under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA). The Government has been providing Budgetary support to these undertakings. During 1996-97 following provisions have been made for these Undertakings in the Budget:

		(Rs in crores)
1.	NTC	243.00
2.	BIC	17.00
3.	Elgin Mills	14.35
4.	Cawnpore Textiles	5.00
5.	NJMC	80.00

(c) and (d) The Sick Public Sector Undertakings have been referred to BIFR under the provisions of SICA. Their rehabilitation packages are presently under consideration of the BIFR and AAIFR.